

# THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT :

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## EDITORIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The **Next Meeting** of the Association will take place at Ilford on April 18th, when the following extremely attractive programme will be carried out:—

8.15 *p.m.*—Assemble at Ilford Station, L. & N.E.R. (Suitable trains leave Liverpool Street at 2.23 and 2.50 *p.m.*). Proceed to Dr. Barnardo's Girls' Village Homes, which will be inspected by kind permission of the Governors.

5.0 *p.m.*—Proceed to Ilford Town Hall.

5.15 *p.m.*—Tea in the Council Chamber, by kind invitation of His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman W. J. O. Sheat, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.).

6.15 *p.m.*—Inspection of the Central Library. The Ilford Libraries Staff will be available for any demonstration or explanation.

6.30 *p.m.*—Meeting of the Junior Section, when Mr. J. Luck, Bethnal Green Library, will read a paper on "Children and Reading."

7.0 *p.m.*—General Meeting. Mr. Stanley Snaith of the Islington Public Libraries, will read a paper on "Censorship" and the Chair will be taken by Mr. Councillor A. E. Cornwell, Chairman of the Libraries Committee.

*To reach Ilford Station.*—Train from Liverpool Street (L.N.E.R.) Train to Woodrange Park (L.M.S.), and then 'bus. 'Bus services 25, 125, 148, or 26A, to Ilford Broadway, one minute's walk from the Station.

Will those who intend to be present to tea kindly notify the Borough Librarian, Central Library, Ilford, by postcard not later than Saturday, April 14th.

**Annual Meeting.**—The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held at Birmingham on Wednesday, June 18th.

A full day's programme is being arranged, and we hope that members will endeavour to be in Birmingham as early in the day as possible. Visiting members will be the guests of the Midland Division at Lunch and Tea. Members who find it inconvenient to make the journey to and from Birmingham in one day will be offered hospitality by the members of the Midland Division, if they will communicate with the Secretary, Mr. Victor Woods, Reference Library, Ratcliff Place, Birmingham, as soon as possible.

A complete programme of the day's arrangements will be published in the May ASSISTANT.

For the **Burne-Jones Exhibition** which is to be held at the Fulham Central Library from April 21st to May 5th, many interesting original drawings and paintings, reproductions, and Kelmscott Press books illustrated by Burne-Jones (including the famous Chaucer), will be shewn, besides personal things connected with his home at "The Grange," North End Road, Fulham.

The following arrangements have been made : (i) lecture entitled "Burne-Jones and his Circle," by Professor J. W. Mackail, M.A., LL.D., at 8 p.m., on Monday, April 23rd ; (ii) lantern lecture entitled "The Pictorial Art of Burne-Jones," by A. S. Renshaw, Esq., at 8 p.m., on Monday, April 30th.

**Censorship** is again in the air. Pastor Birch at Bradford, has been recently shocked to find that members of his congregation can undo all the good that he does them, by borrowing books from the public library which are almost always concerned with the seventh commandment. It must certainly be very worrying for him. But if his congregation are as interested in adultery as he suggests, they are really very silly to take the trouble to go to the library to satisfy their interest. Any schoolboy will tell them that there is much more to be learnt from the Bible on such awful mysteries than from any seven- and sixpenny novel. The grounds upon which he would ban most modern novels would, to be consistent, justify the banning of the Bible, Shakespeare, Rabelais, Longus, Apuleius, Proust, Petronius, and almost any great classic. Following on this outburst, Mr. Sayers has also recently stirred up interest in the subject by his article in the

current *Library Review*. His practical way out of the difficulty seems to be the most sensible course to follow, but we do not think it necessary to adopt such methods unless there is a considerable body of opinion in favour. For instance, if "Antic Hay" is objected to by one or two people only, there seems to be no reason why their request for its withdrawal should not be disregarded. This foolish fear on the part of some people that the more ordinary men and women read about sexual matters in the form of fiction the more licentious they themselves will become is illogical and not borne out by experience. The men and women of the Victorian era had little opportunity of reading about their own physiological and emotional make-up in any form, either scientific or romantic, yet who could truthfully affirm that our grandparents were our superiors in morals. In every way the generations are more frank and cleanly to-day than they would or could have been seventy years ago. We all know men and women who never look at print beyond the morning paper; are they so much our superiors in these matters? Do we not find that they too, like most men and women, rarely speak of chastity chastely, that they too, think a funny story *must* be a bawdy story. Librarians, it must be admitted, are in a difficult position, being servants at one and the same time to Bumble and Demos—the two worst masters Beelzebub ever created; yet to place a book in a "special" collection is to invest it with glamour and mystery. An atmosphere of pruriency is generated automatically and the sexual aspects of the books are violently thrown out of proportion. Flaubert and Gœthe both fainted on first beholding a woman's naked body; all the repressions of their youth, all the ignorant teaching, the shifty allusions, the furtive glances, the unhealthy reveries of their youthful years had been dammed up, and only the essential purity of truth could release them. Besides the whole question is really one of fashion and not of ethics. When we were at school "Sappho" was very wicked, yet to-day almost everybody finds it unreadable and innocent. To-morrow even Pastor Birch may be enjoying "Antic Hay." Meanwhile we are glad that the Librarian of Bradford hit out so strongly and courageously.

**Central Library for Students.**—The latest additions to Col. Newcombe's ever-increasing list of outlier libraries are Portsmouth and Newport (Monmouthshire). The special collections at the former are on Hampshire and on heraldry and genealogy; those at Newport on Monmouthshire and on foreign literature. The books will be issued through the Central Library at the discretion of the Librarians.

**The Municipal Journal** has fallen foul of the "Librarian." We really cannot see that the latter has been very rude. In any case the *Municipal Journal* is quite wrong in affirming that urbanity is an attribute of gentlemen. As the man in the "Dover Road" says: we

can't always be gentlemen, and if the *Municipal Journal* WILL write such illogical nonsense——!

**An Apology** is due to members for the irregularity in the publication of this journal. The Honorary Editor and his Committee do all that they can to ensure that the printer gets the copy early, but all to no purpose. It has now been found necessary to engage the services of a printer whose works are nearer the Editor than Croydon. Beginning with the May number, therefore, members may reasonably expect some improvement in this irritating state of affairs.

**The Next Meeting of the Council** will be held on Wednesday, April 11th, and the May Meeting on Wednesday, May 23rd. Members are reminded that nominations for the Officers and Council, 1928-9, should be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary, Public Library, Bancroft Road, Mile End, E.1., not later than May 1st next.

Will those members of the A.A.L. who are also members of the N.A.L.G.O., please note that Mr. Donald McDougall, F.L.A., the Chief Librarian of the Plaistowe Passmore Edwards Library, West Ham, is a candidate for election to the Metropolitan District Executive Committee of the N.A.L.G.O. It is very desirable that library interests should be represented on this committee as recent events have shown, so that we feel that Mr. McDougall is entitled to the support of every library worker who is eligible to vote for his election. Those who are on local N.A.L.G.O. executive committees might also try to influence their colleagues in other departments.

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## A FEDERATION OF THE LIBRARIES OF THE EMPIRE.

By G. H. LOCKE,

*Chief Librarian of Toronto, Canada.*

Sometimes the onlooker if he be sympathetic and intelligent may see the game much better than those who are actually taking part in it. Sometimes the most interesting books on a country have been written not by a native but by a visitor. Bryce's "American Commonwealth," Lowell's "The Government of England," yes, and Louis Hemon's "Maria Chapdelaine," that idyll of Canada which sold into the million copies, are illustrations that occur to me as I write. This is preliminary to an answer to the invitation from your Association that I explain what I meant by my suggestion at the recent Jubilee Meeting of the British Library Association that there might be a federation of the library interests of the Empire which would be to the advantage of all who are identified with the work of spreading intelligence by means of some phase of this great national educational institution.

I am not an Imperial Federationist, so-called, for I believe strongly in the importance of nationality and of individuality within the nationality, but I cannot close my eyes to the fact that in the present state of library work in the British Isles and in the Commonwealth of the Empire there is too much individuality, and so little unity that there is but little advancement. Again, I want to say that I am utterly opposed to uniformity. I want unity which I think is possible without uniformity.

Now having stated my general position may I suggest that—were they to come together—the British Library Association, the Special Libraries Association, the County Libraries Association, the Association of Assistant Librarians, and any other association of librarians into one Federation of Librarians for the British Isles, this would be decidedly encouraging for those in the commonwealths in the outer marches of the Empire who are handicapped in their efforts to gain recognition by that most potent and often most dangerous adherence to precedent which asks: "What is being done at home?"

Would not the example of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in its organization encourage us to form such a federation of interests so that there ought to be a British Association for the Advancement of Learning through Libraries, or some simpler title which would reflect the federation of all the library interests of the Empire. There is room under such a federation for all the phases of librarianship which would flourish much better than they do now, and then the Empire could speak with one voice on important matters and we could have a British point of view to set over against an American point of view—which we have not now. We have now overlapping on the one hand, and lack of interest on the other, and we let things go on from year to year because we hesitate to interfere with what are called "vested interests." A high fee is exacted by the British Library Association which at once excludes hundreds of people in library work who turn to other Associations. From another standpoint there has recently arisen the Special Libraries Association, which is to a certain extent a rival concern. Some day we may see a University and College Association and others again may come into being with the specialized development so characteristic of this age.

And I have said nothing of the problems of the inter Dominions, of Canada, of Australia, of South Africa and even of India where at present in some of the native states there are efficient libraries.

There never was a time in the history of the Empire when there was such an interest in this particular phase of education and I think that if the various associations in Great Britain were to make "friendly gestures" to one another and set about the establishment of an Association of Librarians within the Empire, there would be a movement inwards towards the centre which is necessary in these days if Empire

movements are to be successful. Time has passed when reference can be made to the rays of light going forth from the centre to illumine the dark parts at the circumferences. The rays of to-day are converging rays and bringing heat and power as well as light they need to have a friendly welcome and a suitable environment.

Such is the view of the onlooker from one of the Dominions who is anxious that there should be developed a community of interest within the Empire in connection with the dissemination of knowledge through the educational institution of the democracy—the Library.

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"The public can distinguish very readily—far better than it is given credit for—between bad literature and good; nor is the public deaf to good music, but the public seems quite powerless to distinguish between good painting and bad. No, I am wrong. It distinguishes very readily between bad painting and good, but it invariably prefers the bad . . . If I could only make folk understand how illusory is their belief, what a service I should render to art; if I could only make them understand that the original taste of man is always for the commonplace, and that it is only by great labour and care that man learns to understand as beautiful that which the uneducated eye considers ugly."

—George Moore.

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### \*LIBRARY HEATING.

"Libraries are usually steam-heated, for which the square feet of radiation may be roughly calculated by the Mill's formula of 2-20-200, the sum of the glass area divided by 2; the solid wall area by 20; and the cubic feet content of the room by 200. For example, our building, we assume, has a net area within the walls of 9,500 square feet by a height of approximately 40 feet under the roof, which gives 380,000 cubic feet. The glass area equals 1,900 square feet (or 20 per cent. of floor area); the wall area equals the periphery of the building (150 plus 70 plus 150 plus 70); 440 lineal feet, by 40 feet height or 17,600 square feet less the 1,900 square feet of glass, or 15,700 square feet. This formula will apply:—

$$x = \frac{ga}{2} + \frac{wa}{20} + \frac{cc}{200} \text{ in which } x \text{ equals the square feet of radiation required; } ga \text{ equals glass area of windows and ceiling lights; } wa \text{ equals solid wall area; } cc \text{ equals cubic contents. Applying this formula we obtain the results:—}$$

$$x = \frac{1900}{2} + \frac{15,700}{20} + \frac{380,000}{200} = 3,625 \text{ square feet of radiation. If the radiation be concealed behind shelving or seats, it should be increased by about one-third or say, 1,200 square feet, giving, say 4,800 square}$$

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\*Quoted, by courtesy of the publishers, from an article on Library Planning, by Edward L. Tilton, in the December number of the *Architectural Forum*.

feet, to which add 50 per cent. for piping or for reserve power on boilers ; or 2,500 added to 4,800 yields 7,300, which indicates the requisite boiler rating. The cost of the installation may approximate four dollars per square foot of the radiation, 4,800, or say 19,200 dollars. An additional percentage of radiation should be allowed for exposed walls on north sides and for ceilings under flat roofs."

### **THE DUN EMER AND CUALA PRESSES : IRELAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO MODERN FINE PRINTING.\***

By AILEEN M. GOODWIN,  
(*Birmingham Public Libraries*).

The Book Beautiful, as conceived by craftsmen of old, was a thing of loving care. Often the printer was his own typographer, compositor, and pressman. He manipulated his types—types, perhaps, not always perfect when judged by modern standards—with the inherent skill of the artist. One cannot help thinking, as one learns more about Miss Elizabeth Yeats and her work, that she is a direct descendant, in spirit, of those craftsmen of old.

Miss Elizabeth Corbet Yeats is the daughter of John Butler Yeats, the artist, and a sister of W. B. Yeats, the poet, and of Jack Yeats, the painter. It may not be generally known that W. B. Yeats was tempted to use painting and modelling as mediums of expression before he abandoned them for poetry and the drama. The family heritage of craftsmanship is continued by his sisters, Elizabeth and Lily, and of painting by his brother, Jack Yeats.

For six years, Miss Yeats studied with William Morris at the Kelmscott Press. Here her artistic tendencies were encouraged and developed, and her work is distinguished to-day by its individuality and charm. Its crowning quality is simplicity, and the beauty of her books is unobtrusive, and almost severe.

In 1908, together with Miss Gleeson, and with the help of Mr. Emery Walker—famed for his process blocks, and a real craftsman—she started a hand press in a little village just outside Dublin, called Dundrum. This was known as the Dun Emer Press, but after Miss Gleeson retired from the partnership in 1908, it was continued by Miss Yeats herself under its present name of Cuala.

As long ago as 1912, Miss Yeats stated her aims in founding the press in "T.P.'s Weekly." She desired, she said, to revive the art of printing in Ireland—an art not practised there since the 18th century. An 18th century type, easy to read, and free of eccentricities, was cast for her, and the paper she uses for all her books is made specially for her, without bleaching materials and of linen rags, at the Saggart Mills in Co. Dublin, sometimes, she tells me, called the

\*A paper read at the January Meeting of the Midland Division.

Swiftbrook Mills, because they are in country much associated with the famous Dean of St. Patrick's. The pages are printed in a hand press, and their composition is as simple as possible. An Albion Press is used. The books are edited by W. B. Yeats, and no book is published without his consent.

The first book to be published by Miss Yeats was "In the Seven Woods," by W. B. Yeats (August, 1903). Miss Yeats and Miss Ryan learned on that book, and it took them six months to print 300 copies. Eleven books only were published under the name of Dun Emer, among them being "Twenty One Poems" by Lionel Johnson (1905); "Sixteen Poems" by William Allingham, selected by W. B. Yeats (1905); "By Still Waters" by A. E. (1906); and "Twenty One Poems" by Katharine Tynan (1907). Under the name of Cuala, twenty-nine books have been published. In this second division of the press's work, Synge is well represented by "Poems and Translations" (1909) "Deirdre of the Sorrows" (1910), "J. M. Synge and the Ireland of his Time," by W. B. Yeats (1911), and "J. M. Synge. A Few Personal Recollections," by John Masefield. (1915). The work of W. B. Yeats himself is exemplified by eleven books of verse and prose, and other interesting books appearing in their bibliography are:—"A Woman's Reliquary," of which I have more to say later; "A Selection from the Writings of Lord Dunsany" (1912); "The Post Office," by Rabindranath Tagore: "The Kiltartan Poetry Book"—prose translations from the Irish, by Lady Gregory—(1918); and letters and a fragment of an autobiography by John Butler Yeats. The latest book published by the Press is "October Blast," by W. B. Yeats, of which 350 copies have been printed. It is dated August, 1927. All but the most recent of the books are now out of print.

Apart from the actual printing, Miss Yeats specialises in hand coloured prints and Christmas cards, and over these W. B. Yeats exercises no control. She tells me that all the pictures are printed by herself and her assistants on the premises from process blocks made in Dublin, from special designs executed for her by Irish artists. All but a few special prints, on Whatman paper, are done on Irish hand-made paper. No men at all are employed at the Cuala Press—that is, the type is set and the books are printed solely by Irish girls without any aid from the stronger sex. At present Miss Yeats has four assistants working with her at printing. They are:—

Miss Esther Ryan.

Miss Eileen Colum (the sister of Padraic Colum).

Miss Molly Gill, and Miss Catherine Banfield.

Miss Ryan was her first assistant, and came to her in 1903 as a little girl in her teens, when the press was known as the Dun Emer, and was run in co-operation with Miss Evelyn Gleeson. Next came Miss Colum; a year or two later, Miss Gill, and Miss Banfield joined



them about five years ago. Miss Colum is officially engaged on hand colouring, and helps with the printing in an emergency.

The pictures are printed in outline, and then coloured by hand. For the Christmas cards, the poems are specially written, and the pictures are specially designed to go with the poems. Miss Yeats pays poets and artists for their work, and she also pays royalties to the authors of the books published by the Cuala Press.

As I have said, the crowning quality of Cuala books is their simplicity. They have no such elaborations as tend to mar some of the productions of Morris, Ricketts, and Ashbee; elaborations which Cobden Sanderson might condemn as a "typographical impertinence." The type is plain, clear and simple; the paper is good. The strong, simple woodcuts of Jack B. Yeats lend the books an air of distinction without ostentation. The only fault is that the red is a little thin.

In addition to the books published in the ordinary way, Miss Yeats has produced quite a number of privately printed books—among them, a little book for Mrs. W. A. Cadbury—"A Verse for Every Day of the Year." Only 25 copies were printed—they were only intended for her family and friends. In Autumn, 1927, 200 copies of a History of the Ionides Family were privately printed, but not published—by the Cuala Press. At the First Loan Exhibition of The First Editions Club, in 1922, the Cuala Press was—appropriately enough—exemplified by early imprints of W. B. Yeats' work, and there was also a display of Dun Emer editions.

Professor Dowden, when he died, left behind him, in manuscript, a little book of verses, with instructions that they were to be printed by Miss Yeats at the Cuala Press. In 1913, Miss Yeats brought them out in an edition of 800 copies. "A Woman's Reliquary" is prefaced by Dowden himself, who assumes the guise of editor, and speaks both of the writer and of the person addressed as dead; but Mrs. Dowden has since consented that Miss Yeats should make the authorship clear.

For several years, Miss Yeats issued an illustrated magazine known first as "The Broadsheet" and subsequently as "The Broad-side." This has now been discontinued. All copies are now out of print, and there are only a few odd numbers left for sale.

I cannot better conclude than by quoting W. G. Blaikie Murdoch's words on the Cuala books:—

"It was in a tiny study that I first saw these books . . . . in a house in Maida Vale, which was long the home of Arthur Symons. Indeed, it was Symons himself who originally showed me the Cuala books. In his study, the walls were a faint, delicate green; while there was a writing desk, quite possibly from the hand of Chippendale himself, and on the oak mantel-piece stood some little gems by Tanagra sculptors. The whole effect was infinitely quiet and charming . . . .

and here . . . . we chanced to begin talking of the art of book production . . . . The Vale and Kelmscott productions were duly applauded, while I referred enthusiastically to those of the Eragny Press, conducted by my friend, Lucien Pissarro. And then, going to one of his bookshelves, Symons produced a Cuala volume, which delighted me at once, inasmuch as it disclosed qualities foreign, or largely foreign, to the books of those other hand presses aforesaid. That is to say, it was wholly simple, its beauty of a restful and unobtrusive kind, so that the slim, graceful volume seemed to harmonise faultlessly with the room enshrining it. And thus, to this day, I nearly always think of that tasteful, reticent, study in Maida Vale, when I see a Cuala volume . . . . ."

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**A DISCOURSE ON THE ART OF LIBRARIANSHIP AND THE  
MERITS OF ASSISTANTS.**

By E. M. AUDREY HAULTAIN  
(*Fulham Public Libraries*).

*With apologies to the late Mr. Izaak Walton.*

IGNARUS : You are well overtaken, Friend ! A good morning to you ! I have stretched my legs up King's Town Hill to overtake you hoping your business may occasion you towards Ham, whither I am going this fine fresh Autumn morning.

LECTOR : Marry, I shall almost answer your hopes, for my way leads up to King's Town, and I think not to rest till I come thither.

IGNARUS : I am right glad, for good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter. May I put on the boldness to ask you, Friend, whether business or pleasure caused you to be so early up and walk so fast ?

LECTOR : Sir, mine is a mixture of both, a little pleasure and more business ; my way is to the Library House, for I am, Sir, a brother of that good Company of Loving Librarians.

IGNARUS : In sooth I have heard many serious men pity them, 'tis such a heavy contemptible, dull recreation. They are so patient and so simple men.

LECTOR : Know you, Sir, 'tis an easy thing to scoff at any art or recreation. I hope in time to disabuse you, and make the contrary appear so evident that I shall remove all anticipations that discourse, or time, or prejudice, have possessed you with against that laudable and ancient art, Librarianship.

IGNARUS : I doubt I shall hear some booky discourse of it, but I hope it will not be a long one !

LECTOR : O Sir, doubt not but that Librarianship is an Art, and one worthy the knowledge and practice of a wise man. Is it not

an art to deceive a fiction reader with a student's book? A fiction reader! that is more sharp sighted than a hawk. It is worth your learning, though there is the question, whether you are capable of learning it. For it is somewhat like poetry, men are to be born so, with inclinations to it. But he that hopes to be a Chief Librarian must NOT bring an enquiring, searching, observing wit, but only a large measure of hope and patience; having followed this advice, then doubt not but Librarianship will prove to be a most pleasant reward in itself.—The only remuneration!

IGNARUS: Friend, I am full of expectation, and long much to have you proceed.

LECTOR: Let me tell you, worthy Sir, that debate hath arisen whether the happiness of man in this world doth consist more in contemplation or in action. I rest myself contented in telling you that both these meet together, and do most properly belong to that most honest, ingenious, quiet, and harmless art of reading, for a good book can both lull one to contemplation, and spur one forward to action. And, further, a Library is the quietest and fittest place for this recreation. In our Library House you may see the Student Youth, the Music-Lover, the Loafer, N'erdowell and Vagabond, the Journalist and Lecturer, and several sorts of Public, those that indulge in Fiction, Light Literature, or Classics: and we have books of so various forms, and so wonderfully made, as to beget the wonder and amusement in any beholder. This may seem incredible, but there are many confirmations from men of learning and credit.

IGNARUS: Marry, Sir, but you amaze me!

LECTOR: Aye, Friend, and had'st thou but known James Duff Brown (an excellent Librarian, and now with God) he might have told thee more. Why, Sir, is it not our work to discover that would-be reader who hath been curious to search into our books for some queer knowledge, and who can find nothing by which he may satisfy his curiosity? To discover him, I say, and supply his needs? For some books being read cause madness, some drunkenness, and some laughter unto death. Some books turn all that read them into vermillion colour, they become Socialist and Communist. It would take me hours to tell you of our readers, or monsters, call them what you will. He that reads the "*Voyages of Ferdinand Mendez Pintot*," he that reads *Plutarch*. One good man was observed to spend a tenth part of his time in the Reference Room, I know, for I have conversed with those which have conversed with him.

IGNARUS: And whom, Sir, do you put in charge of these most delicate matters?

LECTOR: The Library Assistant. And here we have some problems in our Art, one being the use of men or lassies.

IGNARUS : O, Sir ! a lass is the worst worker that works.

LECTOR : But there are girls loving and innocent that hurt nothing that hath life and are at peace with all the inhabitants that visit the Library. A girl may keep the volumes carefully and methodically upon the shelves, and may even gain some knowledge of their contents. She is quick to please the reader, she putteth back and pulleth out again at their pleasure, and will so entice a Wodehouse Reader that he will nibble and bite at better books, at which time she, by little and little, sendeth him forth with a Mencken ! And that they be fit for the contemplation of the most prudent and pious, and peaceable men seems to be testified by the practice of so many devout and contemplative men chosing them. Concerning which choice, some have made these observations : first, that they never reproved these for their employment or calling, and, secondly, they found the hearts of such lassies, by nature were fitted for contemplation and quietness, girls with mild and sweet and peaceable spirit, as indeed most librarians are. Look you what excellent Libraries take women, Chelsea and Westminster, Fulham and Croydon, and very many others.

IGNARUS : Well Sir, I confess myself in favour of the man, who, if he lives never so long, yet always thrives till his death, which is not so with the lass, who, after she is come to her full growth, she declines in her body, and keeps her bigness, or thrives, only in her *head*, till her death. Also you shall in Winter find her to be lank and thin and lean, at which time many of them have colds and other ills. Yet, there *are* men and men : you are to note, that as you see some Willows, or Palm-trees, bud and blossom sooner than others do, so some men be quicker at their books and learning than others be.

LECTOR : Sir, you may be right in the whole, but these men who, having spent their appointed time and done their natural duty in the Counter, and are not so efficient as to be appointed higher, these same men lose interest, by degrees grow sick and lean, and unseasonable, and "kipper," that is to say, have gristles grow out of their lower chaps, which hinders their feeding, and in time, counter assistants so left behind pine away and die.

IGNARUS : You are my master here, so you must needs be right. In any case the poor lassies have enemies enough. I will leave them to be quarrelled with and loved by others. Also there are divers kinds of women, both in colour and shape, and maybe character as well, and if they are as quick at their learning as the men, why Sir, I admit you may be right. Marry, but you may be right, but a man hath always his belly to fill, so let's to that House, for I am hungry, and you must needs a draught.

LECTOR : Sir, I thank you and cry mercy for being so long. Nevertheless I must part with you for on the stroke of nine I must be at my destination.

IGNARUS : My pardon is easily granted you, for a companion that is cheerful, and free from swearing and scurrilous discourse, is worth gold. I wish that you would but drink a cup here at the good Three Tuns to wet your whistle.

LECTOR : Nay Friend, I must e'en stretch my legs. Farewell.

IGNARUS : God keep you Sir ! *and each wends his separate way . . .*

### DIONYSUS AND HIS SACRED SHIP.

We think that many whose interest has been aroused in the design by Exekias which serves for the front cover decoration of this Magazine, may like to refer to the half-tone plate from which the drawing was made. This will be found in E. A. Gardiner's "*The Art of Greece*" (plate xxxi). The legend which inspired this beautiful illustration of Dionysus in his sacred ship finds its fullest poetical expression in the Sixth Homeric Hymn. A fine prose translation of this was made by Andrew Lang (Allen and Unwin, 1899); George Chapman too, essayed a verse rendering :—

As on a prominent shore his person shone,  
Like to a youth whose flower was newly blown,  
Bright azure tresses play'd about his head.  
And on his bright broad shoulders was dispread  
A purple mantle. Straight he was described  
By certain manly pirates, that applied  
Their utmost speed to praise him, being aboard  
A well-built bark . . . . .

The pirates think to rob him, and "therefore straight among fetters they must fetch to make him sure." Fetters are useless, however, before the power of a god, who sat "casting smiles from his black eyes." The master exhorts his associates not to harm the god, but they are heedless. They hoist the mast and mainsail.

"But strange works appear'd to all their eyes :

First, sweet wine through their swift-black bark did flow."

More wonders come :—

"For on the topsail there ran, here and there,  
A vine that grapes did in abundance bear,  
And in an instant was the ship's main mast  
With an obscure-green-ivy's arms embraced."

Then appears a terrible lion who frightens the sailors so that they in panic leap into the sea only there to be "all to dolphins metamorphosed."

From *Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman antiquities* we learn that the attic festivals of Dionysus were intimately connected with the origin and development of dramatic literature.

# SHORT NOTICES.

*Reports, Catalogues, Bulletins, etc.*

Cheltenham Book Week Programme.

Mr. Herdman is to be congratulated on his part in organising this excellent function. The programme was interesting and varied, including, among other items, a special exhibition of new books.

Somerset County Council: Report of the County Librarian.

Bulletin of the A.L.A., February, 1928.

Bulletin of the Grand Rapids Public Library.

Contains an interesting article by the Librarian, on the special collection of books on furniture, the catalogue of which was reviewed in these pages last month.

Pratt Institute. Quarterly Booklist.

Colchester. Thirty-third Annual Report.

Watford. Laying of Foundation Stone of the New Public Library: Programme.

Mr. W. Benson Thorne represented the Library Association on this occasion. The estimated cost of the building is £20,000—a remarkably low figure.

Burnley Library Journal, March, 1928.

Port Elizabeth Public Library. 79th Annual Report.

Library Review, No. 5.

*Contents.*—Preparation for librarianship by Dr. E. A. Baker; The Romance of libraries, by Dr. G. P. Insh; The Banning of books, by W. C. B. Sayers; An American's Sounding, by Adam Strohm, etc.

Library Journal, February, 1928.

Libraries, February, 1928.

Sheffield Public Libraries. Recent Additions List, No. 5.

We notice in this excellent list that the works of the ubiquitous "Gentleman with a [Knuckle] Duster" have been boldly and unflatteringly attached to Harold Begbie. This author has never acknowledged the books issued under the pseudonym, and although most people feel pretty sure of the identity of the writer, it yet seems rather risky to catalogue the books definitely under Begbie.

Walthamstow Public Libraries. Catalogue of books added during 1927.

Hart (Albert Bushnell), George Washington (Reading with a Purpose, Series. Paper, pp. 86).

A well-written introduction to some good books on the subject.

Stephen (Geo. A.). The Public Library and the Historical Student. (Paper, pp. 28. Published by the Norwich Public Libraries Committee. Post free 3½d.)

The usefulness of this essay is by no means confined to Norwich, although Mr. Stephen's purpose was primarily to introduce the historical section of his own library to local students. Most of the students, we feel sure, were just as surprised as we ourselves were, to find how comparatively rich Norwich Public Library is in the lesser known historical material.

Darlington Public Library. Music and Musical Literature: classified catalogue. (Paper, pp. 66.)

Having ourselves assisted in the compilation of a classified music catalogue

a few years ago we approached this catalogue with some knowledge of the difficulty of the work. At the outset we should like to congratulate Mr. Dallimore and his staff on a really commendable piece of work. It is one of the best music catalogues we have seen. The music is classified by Brown's Subject Classification, and is fully catalogued with a subject, form and author index. Coming from a music-lover, Brown's music tables are extraordinarily muddled and inefficient, but they are at least as good as Dewey's. Most librarians, we fancy, will, where possible, adopt in the future Mr. McColvin's excellent schedules. By a liberal use of national and categorical numbers, Mr. Dallimore has here made the fullest use possible of the aids to close classification which Brown provides. Sometimes the result is muddling. For instance, in a moment of depression Brown thought some people would like to classify all music first by form and then by instrument. He accordingly drew up schedules to provide for this. Realising, however, that some provision should be made for the large majority of librarians who would like to place all works written for the pianoforte, the violin, etc., in one place (he thought this arrangement "*probably* most useful") he indicates that the specific headings, Gavottes, Marches, etc., should be used as places for grouping works *on* the subject only.

In this catalogue both methods seem to be in use. For instance, we find on page 11 "Reid's Album of popular marches for piano (C 452), and Strauss' Twelve favourite waltzes for piano (C 496), while all other pianoforte works are at page 30 (C 647). It is possible of course that this is a mere slip.

For the selection of music we have nothing but praise, except that the list of cantatas and oratorios is rather exiguous. The most important omissions are Bach's "Passion" oratorios (St. John and St. Matthew), Gounod's "Redemption," Handel's "Samson," and "Saul," Haydn's "The Passion" and "The Seasons," Holst's "Hymn of Jesus," Coleridge-Taylor's "Hiawatha," and Cyril Scott's "Nativity Hymn." The vocal section is very full, but we do not notice any of Hugo Wolf's songs, nor is there any of Cyril Scott's music catalogued. Although the pianoforte section is fairly strong, here too, are very notable omissions—Stravinsky, Mozart's sonatas, etc. On the other hand, such good modern music is provided as Poulenc's "Napoli," and Stravinsky's "Les Noces." By the way the latter is classed as an opera (C 781)—is it not a ballet? (C 789) Acknowledgement is made by the librarian to Mr. F. A. Richards, his Deputy, and others who have assisted him in the compilation of this exceptionally good catalogue.

Stepney Public Libraries. General Catalogue, Class D. (Boards, pp. 291.)

This section of the catalogue deals with Biography, History, Geography, Topography, Voyages and Travels, and the work, in general, is characterized by careful attention to details, and efficient craftsmanship. The dictionary form catalogue is a very difficult one to produce and the compilers of this section are to be congratulated most heartily on their work. The entries are arranged alphabetically under subjects with an author list. We suggest that cross-references such as Circumnavigation *see* Voyages and Travels should read *see* Voyages and travels, *i.e.*, where the heading referred to contains two substantives joined by "and" the second should be not capitalised. The point is small but otherwise the suggestion is made to readers that there are *two* headings to consult, *viz.*, Voyages, and Travels. We notice that the A. L. A. list of subject headings follows this custom. The Stepney libraries appear to have not only a magnificent collection of books, but a staff competent to catalogue them and it is with no other idea than that of being useful that we call attention to the following lacunæ. We cannot find Pater's "Renaissance," Barbellion's "Journals," Holmes' standard life of Mozart, George Sturt's books (prior to the "Wheelwright's Shop"), Beethoven's letters,

Bewicks' life of himself (a beautiful edition of this was recently remaindered at 5s.), W. H. Hudson's "Far away and long ago," and his letters to Garnett, Swinburne's "Victor Hugo," Gilchrist's "Life of Blake," Swinburne's "Blake," Swinburne's life and letters by Sir E. Gosse, and Doughty's "Arabia Deserta" (only the abridgment seems unaccountably to be catalogued), and one of the best books on the War—C. E. Montague's "Disenchantment." Gosse's "Congreve" is represented only in an abridged edition, and Herodotus is not indexed. Ludlow's famous memoirs are not catalogued, and Burnet's "History" appears under the author but not under the subject period. In a section comprising historical works we particularly miss the Loeb Classical Library, for Bohn's translations are very dull. Furthermore we think it a pity to catalogue beloved Plutarch thus "Plutarch. Lives." This means nothing, for Plutarch is not Plutarch unless he is dressed respectably. We must know his tailor or we will not see him at all. Let us be snobs to this extent, at any rate: North we are honoured to be allowed to handle, Professor Perrin is well-mannered, Langhorne a trifle prosy but well enough, but anybody's translation will not do for us. Here again we sadly look for our dear friend Dr. Philemon Holland, whose prose is as comely as his name—and find him not. Yet there is a very cheap reprint of him in a pretty jacket. Writing not far from the place where Pepys himself has walked, we again felt sad when we found that Stepney has to read his indiscretions in Braybrooke's chaste expurgations. Wheatley is dear but worth it.

F. S. S.

### OUR LIBRARY.

The Teacher and the Library, by L. D. Arnett, Librarian of the University of West Virginia (pp. 80. Issued by the Department of Education, Charleston).

This monograph was written by the Librarian of West Virginia University to meet the need for a State Department of Education publication on the use of the library in the free schools of the state—particularly the high school library. Apparently the majority of schools in America have a library, but they vary greatly in their degree of perfection and where they fall short of requirements the public library is asked to fill the gap.

The work consists, to a very great extent, of quotations from reports issued by different authorities, and also from the reported experiences of teachers, on the best method of making full use of any available literature that has a bearing on the subject being studied. The case for the use of supplementary books for class work is discussed, and the writer effectively answers arguments against such use. Under the heading of English Literature we find many valuable suggestions put forward, as for instance one report is quoted as follows: "In order to achieve the best results it advises that the teacher of English work hand in hand with the school librarian, enlisting her support in working out the material for assignments and in compiling lists of books for reading; and, if there is a public library enlisting the support of this librarian also, possibly for loan collections. It also suggests that the course in English include from four to eight lessons in the use of a library; enough to train pupils to use a card catalogue, periodical indexes, encyclopædias, dictionaries, and other reference books." These suggestions might, with advantage, be brought to the notice of many school teachers in this country.

The reading material for scholars of all ages is considered, and the difficult problem of the adolescent realized. The majority of reports issue lists of titles recommended for use in connection with the subject of reading for the different grades, but unfortunately they are not quoted in full. In the various subjects



the co-operation between the teacher and the librarian is proved necessary, and emphasis is placed on the excellent results which can be obtained from reading books and periodicals, apart from those actually used in the lessons.

Dr. Arnett's work is, of course, of primary interest to the new "recruits" entering the teaching profession in America, but it is also of great interest to English librarians as showing that the experienced teacher in the States realizes the valuable aid that a well-appointed library can give him in his work. The reading habit must be fostered in the school, and so must the knowledge and use of reference books, so that the citizen of the future will turn naturally to his public library for information when he requires it.

G. A. NEWLAND.

English from Piers Plowman to the Forsyte Saga, by John L. Young.  
(pp. 74—xxii. Boards. W. and G. Foyle. 1/6 net.)

This is a most useful little book, for it comprises a chronological record, with notes and (according to the title-page) a list of available editions, of English literature within the wide limits indicated by the title. It should prove of value to teachers, readers and book-buyers. The last will probably use it as a pocket reference book. How often have we not hesitated over an odd volume of poems or essays on a stall. Is it a first edition or not, we ask? With this little book handy such a question may be promptly answered.

Accuracy is important in such a book as this, however modest may be its claims, and so far as we can ascertain the book may be safely recommended on this score. It is a great pity, however, that the author did not see fit to substantiate his claims to give a list of available editions. No mention of any bibliographical particular is here given save the price. The supposition, is, we suppose, that readers will order their books from the publishers of this little book.

*Correction: Mr. I. A. Williams' book, reviewed here last month was priced in error as 6s. 0d. instead of 8s. 6d.*

F. S. S.

#### A PUBLIC DIARY.

By L. C. JACKSON,  
*Assistant Librarian, Chesterfield.*

When confronted with the problem of choosing between two equally interesting functions which have been arranged for the same date, resentment and surprise is often felt that the persons responsible did not avoid the events clashing. In view of the above, and in response to a desire to obviate its occurrence, one or two Public Libraries have commenced the keeping of a Diary of Public and Social Events.

For the benefit and guidance of those who are interested in the idea of such a Diary, a description of its *modus operandi* may be useful.

At the commencement, a notice should be inserted in the local press, pointing out the disadvantages attendant upon two or more meetings or functions arranged for the same date, and stating the advantages to be gained from a Diary in which may be found record of the dates of forthcoming important events. Then should be stressed the fact that, without the hearty and enthusiastic support of all secretaries, organisers, and those responsible for arranging public and social events, the Diary will not serve the purpose for which it was introduced; with their support and co-operation the Diary can be an important factor in the removal of doubt as to which dates are vacant when a function or meeting is being arranged.

The Diary should be placed in the Reference Library, at which place it may be consulted by any person responsible for the arrangement of a public or social event. Before a proposed date is fixed, the Secretary should make a

point of consulting the Diary to see whether any other event has been arranged for that date. If not, the date and description of the function should be entered in the Public Diary. If this method is adhered to, the Diary should form a complete record of Public and Social Events.

For Libraries prepared to devote a little time and clerical work, and to ensure the idea of the Diary getting to the right quarters, a list of secretaries of societies, etc., could be drawn up from the local directory, and these people notified by a circular letter. Both the notice in the press and the circular letter would only be necessary at the commencement of the Diary.

To a certain extent a Public Diary may be of more service in small towns, for large towns have sufficient population to ensure the success of two or more events arranged for the same date, although the support of one event at the expense of another is not unknown even in large towns.

In the Libraries where a Public Diary is housed, considerable response and assistance has been received from organisers and secretaries, and the use made of the Diary justifies its adoption.

At the end of each year when the Diary has served its immediate purpose, it should form a valuable addition to the local collection of the Library.

### THE DIVISIONS.

#### SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

A very successful meeting of the South Eastern Division was held at the Brighton Public Library on Friday, January 20th. The meeting took the form of a "Magazine," and was presided over by Miss Gerard, President of the Division.

Contributions were sent to the editress (Miss Dean) anonymously, and were read at the meeting by various members of the audience. They included the following items: "Stray thoughts on biography"; "An interesting day"; "An Almanac for 1928"; "Some English letter-writers"; "Cinderella"; "League of Nations"; "Plain person's perambulations to purchase a plain hat"; "Katherine Mansfield"; "From Brighton to Chichester by car"; "Letter from Cleone"; "Short sketch of smuggling"; "Shelley"; and "Answers to Correspondence." A ballot was taken after the reading of the papers and prizes were given to the writers of the two papers receiving the highest number of votes. The prize-winners were Miss W. Fox, of Worthing, for her contribution "Cinderella—a pantomime, offered with all due apologies to members of the South Eastern Division, for use when they are superannuated and wish to turn their thoughts towards earning an honest living"; and Miss E. Simpson of Worthing, writer of "Some English letter-writers." A prize was also given to the best reader of a paper, and this proved to be Miss Gray, of Hastings.

The next meeting of the Division will take place at Eastbourne on Friday, April 20th, 1928. A prize of 10s. 6d. will be given for the best paper on "Practical suggestions arising out of the *Report on Public Libraries in England and Wales*. Papers not to take more than a quarter of an hour to read. All papers should be signed by pseudonym only, and should be enclosed in a sealed envelope. The full name and address, together with the pseudonym used, should be enclosed in another envelope, and sent to the undersigned, not later than Saturday, April 7th.

GRACE L. DEAN, *Hon. Secretary*.

#### MIDLAND DIVISION.

The Fourth Meeting of the Session was held at the Reference Library, Birmingham, on January 25th, when Mr. H. M. Cashmore presided over an attendance of nearly 40 members.

Those who attended the meeting spent an interesting and enjoyable

two hours listening to eight short papers, arranged by Mr. Herbert Woodbine, on "Modern Fine Printing." The members also had the good fortune to be able to examine and admire specimens from all the presses dealt with during the evening, and this was made possible by the courtesy of Mr. Walter Powell, Chief Librarian, who permitted a special exhibition to be made from works in the Reference Library. The exhibition was enriched by some examples on vellum from the collection of Mr. G. S. Tomkinson, of Kidderminster, whose excellent "Bibliography of Modern Fine Printing" has just been published by the First Edition Club. Mr. Tomkinson was present at the meeting, and gave some interesting reminiscences of many workers at Fine Printing Presses, with whom he is on terms of friendship. Additional specimens of the work of the Cuala Press, were kindly sent from Ireland by Miss Yeats, a co-founder of the press.

An introductory paper on the essentials of fine printing—type—lay-out—margins—decoration—ink—paper—press-work, was contributed by Mr. Herbert Woodbine, who also dealt shortly, but effectively, with Fine Printing before the rise of the Kelmscott.

The work of William Morris and the Kelmscott Press were admirably described by Miss H. Bradley, and it is interesting to note that all subsequent speakers were compelled to acknowledge the indebtedness of the various presses to Morris. The Kelmscott Chaucer, the monument of this prolific press, was on exhibition.

Miss C. Meacham gave an able account of the Vale Press, the type for which was designed on Venetian models by Charles Ricketts. This press followed closely on the Kelmscott and the influence of Morris is clearly discernible in all the types used—the "Vale," "Avon" and "Kings."

A charming essay on the Eragry Press was contributed by Miss W. Hughes. Much interest centres in this press as designing, wood-cutting and printing, were all carried out by Mr. Lucien Pissarro and his wife. The early books of the press were printed in "Vale" type (lent by Ricketts), but later work was in the beautiful "Brook" type, designed in 1903 by Mr. Pissarro. The last book from this press appeared in 1914, and it is a pleasure to be able to add, that Mr. Tomkinson told the meeting, that in conversation with Mr. Pissarro, he had learnt that it is possible that the Eragry Press will re-commence work shortly.

The famous Ashdene Press and its beautiful work were the subject of an essay by Miss E. M. Bradshaw. Two of the monumental works from this Press, the "Decameron," 1920, and the "Fairie Queene," 1923, were on view. Mr. St. John Hornby, the founder of the press is still issuing beautiful books from his premises at Shelley House, Chelsea, the latest being "Don Quixote," published in 1927.

The Doves Press secured excellent treatment in an essay by Miss E. M. Withers. The founders of the press were Mr. T. Cobden-Sanderson and Mr. Emery Walker, the latter having been associated with the Kelmscott Press from its establishment. Simplicity and freedom from any sort of ornament, make the Doves Press type one of great beauty. Perhaps the finest of all modern printed books, the Doves Press Bible, was exhibited and greatly admired.

In gathering information for a paper on the Cuala Press, Miss A. Goodwin communicated with Miss Elizabeth Corbett Yeats, a co-founder of the Press, and in this way she obtained much hitherto unpublished information regarding the charming work of this Irish Press.

Miss M. E. C. Clegg contributed an extremely able study of the work of the Essex House Press, which was established by Mr. C. R. Ashbee at Essex House, Mile End Road, in 1898. Later the press was transferred to Chipping Camden, and since Ashbee's retirement in 1910, the work has been carried on by Dr. A. K. Coomerawamy.

A vote of thanks to the readers of the papers, and to Mr. Woodbine for arranging the papers and the exhibition, concluded a very successful meeting.

The fifth meeting of the Session was held at Wolverhampton, on March 7th, 1928. In the afternoon members were conducted over the factory of Messrs. Guy Motors Ltd., who very kindly provided us with conveyances throughout the day.

By the kind invitation of the Mayor of Wolverhampton, we were entertained to tea at Reynolds's Restaurant. The Mayor and Councillor Hayward (Chairman of the Art Gallery and Public Library Committee) extended to us a cordial welcome. Mr. F. J. Patrick replied, in the absence of the Chairman, Mr. H. M. Cashmore. Mr. W. McIlwraith also addressed us in reminiscent vein.

The evening meeting was held at the Wolverhampton Public Library in the Children's Room, with Councillor F. R. W. Hayward in the Chair.

Mr. R. J. Emerson, R.B.S., A.M.C., read a paper on "What is Art?"

Art, Mr. Emerson said, was drawing; or, the portrayal of actual things; and drawing was the means by which works of art took shape. It was the basis of art, whether in colour or not, for the existence of shape could be scientifically proved.

Drawing always came first. It was equally important in painting, as in sculpture, and particularly when the landscapes of subtle and elusive nature were attempted.

The fascination of colour should be guarded against if it should tend to eclipse the importance of drawing.

Mr. Hadfield Ward (Hon. Secretary of the South Staffordshire Naturalists' Society) gave an address on "How the Public Library has helped me."

Mr. Hadfield Ward pointed out three avenues of knowledge—oral, observation, and the printed work, by which the accumulated knowledge of past generations could be passed on.

The local library had given him access to the third of these avenues and had opened to him a storehouse of books on geology, bird life and insect life.

In this wise had he been helped to know more of the methods of "Madam How and Lady Why" eternally at work in birds, plants and animals.

A vote of thanks to Mr. R. J. Emerson and Mr. Hadfield Ward for their very interesting papers, was proposed by Mr. H. Woodbine and seconded by Mr. G. L. Burton.

A vote of thanks to Messrs. Guy Motors Ltd. and to Mr. Beeston for his share of the arrangements, which had resulted in so successful a meeting, was proposed by Mr. L. Chubb and seconded by Miss E. Bradshaw.

V. W.

#### YORKSHIRE DIVISION. *Annual Report, 1927.*

The retiring Committee have pleasure in submitting for your approval the 21st Annual Report, for the year ending December 1927.

**Membership.**—Commencing the year with a membership of 121, eight new members have been enrolled during the year, and three resignations were received, leaving the total membership at 126. The membership of the Division stands as an encouraging item on the year's programme.

**Meetings.**—During the past year meetings have been held as follows:—

The Annual Meeting at Sheffield on March 9th. During the afternoon motor-buses conveyed the members to the newly-organised branches at Burngrave and Attercliffe. After tea, Mr. J. P. Lamb, Librarian-elect of Sheffield gave an address entitled "Suggestions to a new outlook."

The next and final meeting of the year was held at Bradford on the 19th October. Members assembled at 3 p.m., at the Cartwright Memorial Hall and were conducted round an exhibition comprising works of the "Lesser known

British Artists," by Mr. W. Robertshaw, Deputy Curator. After tea Mr. G. W. Strother gave a report on the proceedings of the L. A. Conference held at Edinburgh.

*Finance.*—Your Honorary Treasurer submits his Annual Financial Statement for your approval. Briefly the income was £41 2s. 3½d., and the expenditure £29 1s. 1½d., leaving a balance in hand of £12 1s. 2d. This highly satisfactory state of affairs bears testimony to the faithful discharge of duties by your Honorary Treasurer.

*Correspondence Classes.*—Correspondence classes have been arranged for members of the Division preparing for the L. A. Examinations. Tutors in Sections 3 and 4 being members of the Yorkshire Division.

The Committee desire to express their sincere thanks to the librarians, civic authorities, speakers, and all members who, by their regular attendance, and loyal co-operation, have helped to make the past year successful.

G. P. J.

#### SOUTH-WESTERN.

The next meeting of the Division will be held at Southampton, on Thursday, April 26th.

Another visit to the docks, to view one of the big liners, is being arranged. Members must be at the Docks Station at 3 p.m., sharp.

HECTOR MOURANT, *Hon. Secretary.*

### CORRESPONDENCE.

*February 15th, 1928.*

*To the Editor of the LIBRARY ASSISTANT.*

DEAR SIR,—On the question of a Union of Library Societies, the "Three Members of the A. A. L." who wrote last month appear only to have considered union in the light of amalgamation; and while being in agreement with their arguments against any proposal which would mean the subordination of the A. A. L., it is necessary to point out that union can take other forms.

As Mr. Savage asserts (page 23, January LIBRARY ASSISTANT), an amalgamation making one association out of several, is not at the present time, either feasible, or desirable; because it would impair the independence of each society besides leading to a weakening of special activities. Federation, is however, another matter; and while it would in the main, possess the advantages of unification by amalgamation, it would still allow each Society to preserve its autonomy. The fact that each Society participating in the federation would have the right to send members to a special Council of the Associated Library Societies (to which would be left for final dealing affairs of mutual importance and those especially requisite of united action), would ensure adequate representation for all.

The A. A. L., would thus exist under the same conditions as at present; plus the added advantage of representation on the council of what would be the most important and influential library body in the country;—a fact, which must surely weigh in favour of federation, as well as commend itself to all who have the welfare of the A. A. L. at heart.—Yours faithfully,

ALAN THOMPSON.

Public Library, York.

*16th February, 1928.*

*To the Editor of the LIBRARY ASSISTANT.*

DEAR SIR,

#### UNION OF LIBRARY SOCIETIES.

In industry and commerce the trend for some time has been more and more towards amalgamation, as witness the railway combines, tobacco trusts,

and trades unions. It is obvious that commercial concerns have found it more profitable to combine than to compete. Theroetically, this applies to the library societies. If library workers spoke one language, half their troubles would end. Interchange of ideas would bring closer relations, making it difficult for misunderstanding to precipitate conflict and disaster. I should like to point out that America apparently finds one society sufficient and satisfactory. The A. L. A. membership is now over 10,000, "approximately a quarter of this total being respectively of chief librarians, heads of departments and branch librarians taken together, and library assistants in general. Of trustees there are . . . three hundred." Cannot the British librarian and assistant work together as amicably as this?

The strongest bar to amalgamation, in my opinion, lies in the fact that it would remove the rivalry between the present individual bodies. Criticism and opposition clear the air and make for health and vigour. Would a united Library Workers' Organisation degenerate for want of opposition or would it find renewed strength in opposing and overcoming the inertia of the great B. P.?

I suggest that if each division of each professional association put the question to its members in these terms, the decision would be in favour of amalgamation, in principle at least. Once this were achieved, such practical details as the arrangement of a sliding scale of contributions according to age and/or salary could be considered.

The objections of "Three members of the A. A. L." would be overcome by their joining the United Society. Such enthusiasm as theirs and a hundred other assistant librarians' would prosper and bear fruit in the face even of the alleged indifference and selfishness of the Chief Librarian. After amalgamation—even amalgamation of professional journals—their remedy would lie in their own hands, for in view of the fact that self-expression would be open and equal to all, they would still be as virile a power at the general meetings, council deliberations and literary activities of the united society as they cared to make themselves. No period need be put to the energy and enthusiasm of the young member, any more than it need be put to the wisdom and judgment of the older member, even though he be a Chief Librarian.—Yours faithfully,  
C. M. JACKSON.

To the Editor of the LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

DEAR SIR,

#### Re UNION OF LIBRARY SOCIETIES.

The last sentence in Mr. Savage's letter touches upon the core of the problem and at the same time gives some very sensible advice. Unfortunately, he is giving the advice to the wrong class. "Assistants" can quite readily forget the distinction; it is the "Chief" who is usually so self-conscious of the fact that he is a "Chief" and the other man only an "assistant." Is there not one "Chief" in a well-known country town who has ruled, among other things, that in the street he is never to be recognized by any member of his staff?

Yours faithfully,

"FEDERALIST."

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

14th March, 1928.

SIR,—The case for a central cataloguing scheme is not to be dismissed quite so easily as your note in the February issue would suggest. In favour of the scheme there is one unanswerable argument—that the tremendous labour involved by each library cataloguing books that are purchased generally—would cease. As a corollary, the cataloguing staff would be released for more profitable work concerned with special schemes for stimulating reading. The arguments against the scheme were admirably put by Mr. Walker, but they can all be

reduced to two factors—expense and increased catalogue bulk. I pointed out at the meeting that the British Museum monthly list of accessions (printed in an admirable manner for our purpose) has always been obtainable for the sum of £3 per annum. If the scheme was adopted nationally this would be cheapened further. The question of bulk cannot be treated as a serious objection. The benefits of a standard code of rules and the great improvement in catalogues as a whole, which would arise from the scheme, cannot be over-rated. It would solve at one stroke all the problems of joint catalogues, including the scheme of a joint catalogue for London (of which you have been a strong exponent) and large systems like Glasgow and Manchester would be able to maintain complete joint catalogues in each library at a very small cost.—Yours sincerely,

J. G. O'LEARY.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, BETHNAL GREEN.

[We agree with our correspondent that the advantages of a scheme of central cataloguing are both obvious and extensive. We fail to see, however, how the problem of a joint catalogue for London would be any simpler to solve than now. In fact, it could hardly be simpler than it is. Furthermore, we do not think that adequate attention has been given to two grave disadvantages. The most instructive and delightful part of our work is cataloguing, and the substitution for this of the mere routine "donkey work" of pasting and arranging slips is a change which we could not view with equanimity. The easy way in which the Departmental Committee gracefully glided over it is significant of its importance as an objection. Let us not be hypnotised by the United States of America in this matter. At the same time we must admit that to a large system of libraries like Manchester's such a scheme might prove invaluable. It would be interesting to hear from a member working at Manchester or Birmingham how they think the scheme would benefit them. Our second objection is worthy of Ned Ludd. Recently the Sheffield Librarian advertised for two cataloguers. If Central Cataloguing were in force would not this advertisement have been changed into one for two juniors? We must remember that we serve Bumble.—HON. EDITOR.]

#### NEW MEMBERS.

W. S. NEWSON (Cubitt Town, Poplar).

South East Division: Stanley J. Butcher (Eastbourne).

#### APPOINTMENTS.

\*WOOD, R. BUTLER, Deputy Librarian, Westminster, to be Chief Librarian. BIGGS, J., to be Deputy Librarian, Westminster.

\*BATEMAN, RALPH P., Junior Assistant, Tottenham, Public Libraries, to be Assistant, Stoke Newington.

\*CAMPLIN, ETHEL M., Assistant Librarian Hackney Libraries, to be Junior Assistant, Bethnal Green Library. (Salary, in accordance with grade A of the London District Council Scale—commencing rate, £179 per annum.) Also selected, Charlotte Adams (Glasgow); \*Winifred Bailey (Lowestoft), and \*Lilian Carr (Croydon).

\*CRONSHAW, F. E., Assistant-in-Charge, Northmoor Branch Library (Oldham), to be Cataloguing Assistant, Sheffield. (Six L.A. certificates).

\*SHAPLAND, DONALD, Assistant-in-Charge, Astley Bridge Branch Library (Bolton), to be Cataloguing Assistant, Sheffield. (Five L.A. certificates). Salary, £230—£10—£260 per annum. Also selected, J. H. E. Biggs (Cardiff), Thomas Cooper (Preston), \*L. C. Jackson (Chesterfield).]

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